

83
SHA
1910-11
F

3191

Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Superintendent.

State: *Virginia*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Ton Sheet No. *3191*

LOCALITY:

*Vicinity of Cape Charles,
Fisherman's Id. to Ship
Shoal Id.*

1900-11

CHIEF OF PARTY:

Stetman Torrey

3191

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. TITTMANN, SUPERINTENDENT

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY

TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO. 3191.

REVISION OF SHORE LINE

FROM

CAPE CHARLES AND FISHERMAN'S ISLAND

TO

SHIP SHOAL ISLAND.

EASTERN SHORE OF THE VIRGINIA PENINSULA.

1911-II.

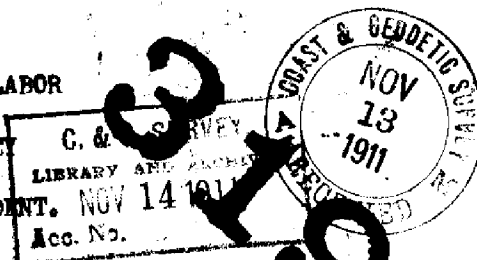
SCALE 1/20,000.

(a) GENERAL DESCRIPTION. The general appearance of the shore from Cape Charles to Ship Shoal Island is very low. The only exception is on the southern end of Smith's Island where an extensive growth of pine trees makes a break in the even regularity of the shore as viewed from seaward.

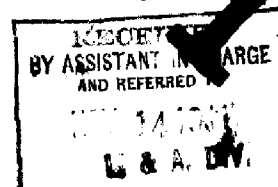
Cape Charles is low and bare of trees. There are no prominent objects on it that can be readily recognized by a stranger.

Fisherman's Island and The Isaacs are devoid of vegetation except grass. They are covered with sand dunes reaching an altitude of not more than 25 feet. On the northwestern end of Fisherman's Island is situated a cluster of some half a dozen houses, a water tank, and a wharf with a house on either end. These comprise the U. S. Quarantine Station. On this wharf a red light is shown at night.

Smith's Island is covered with pine trees on the southern end beginning about 400 M. from the southern extremity and extending approximately 3 miles to the northward. In this clump of trees is situated Cape Charles Lighthouse (New). This is a white, iron, skeleton tower structure, 180 feet high. The base of the light-



Assistant in Charge



house is not visible from seaward. This lighthouse and the trees surrounding it are the first landfalls in making the land in this neighborhood. About two thirds of a mile E. S. E. of the new lighthouse is old Cape Charles Lighthouse. This is built of brick and stands about 40 M. from the high water mark. It is whitewashed with a red stripe running around it horizontally halfway between the top and bottom. Around the lighthouse are gathered three or four small buildings (Some brick and some wooden) belonging to the Smith's Island Life Saving Station. The northern end of Smith's Island is bare of trees and covered with small sand dunes, some of which reach an altitude of twenty feet above mean high water.

Myrtle Island has no features easily recognized from seaward by anyone unfamiliar with the region. The sand dunes which cover it are not over 25 feet high and are covered with sedge grass.

(q) WATERING PLACES FOR VESSELS. Water can be obtained in small quantities at the various life saving stations in this locality or at any of the little towns in the neighborhood.

(u) CHANGE OF COAST LINE. Between Cape Charles and Ship Shoal Island since the survey of ~~1871~~¹⁸⁸⁸ (See T-1202a and T-1203 - Shoreline in red.)

The western side of Cape Charles has eroded - - - - - 30 Meters.

The southern tip of Cape Charles has moved ~~in~~ eastward - - - - - 45 " .

The southern tip of Cape Charles has washed away - - - - - 180 " .

The extreme northern end of Fisherman's Island has washed 60 M. in a southerly direction but coincides with the old shore line on the S. W. side. Abreast of Quarantine Δ the shore line has eroded 60 M. The S. W. extremity of Fisherman's Island, where there used to be a passage, is now bare at low water and extends ~~over~~ the former position of The Isaacs. It has made out 120 M. beyond the old position of The Isaacs. The present position of the Isaacs is practically at right-angles to the former and the southern extremity has made out 125 M. beyond the

(3)

old position as determined by the survey of ¹⁸⁸⁸~~1871~~. The small island shown on the former survey ~~as~~ E. of the Isaacs is completely submerged at low water.

The S. W. end of Smith's Island has eroded 210 M. Opposite the old Cape Charles the shore line Lighthouse [^] ~~it~~ coincides with the survey of ¹⁸⁸⁸~~1871~~. Abreast of Smith's Island East 3 Δ the shore line has eroded 140 M. Abreast of Smith's Island North 2 Δ the coast line has eroded 100 M. The N. E. end of Smith's Island has eroded 225 M. The extreme northern end has made out 135 M.

The inlet which is shown on the survey of ¹⁸⁸⁸~~1871~~, between Myrtle Island and the island immediately south of it, has closed up and the islands are now one called Myrtle Island. The south end of Myrtle Island has eroded 175 M. Midway the island has eroded 160 M. Abreast of Ship Sheal 3 Δ the shore has eroded 450 M. The extreme northern end of the island has made out 200M.

(w) THE SURVEY METHODS USED were those adopted and laid down in the "Superintendent's instructions for the field work of the COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY". The shore line was run by plane table traverse lines, starting from Δ points and checking on points in the interior.

Stetman Hornoy
Asst. C. H. Survey
Chief of party